

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A recording method for an optical disc having at least three recording layers, the method including

a step of recording and reproducing test data for determining the optimal recording power when user data are recorded in each recording layer, and determining the optimal recording power by evaluating the reproduction results, wherein

when test recording areas are formed by recording the test data, the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers do not overlap in the thickness direction of the optical disc, the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction, and the test recording layers in the even-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction,

wherein the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers are formed adjacent one of the innermost circumference and the outermost circumference of the optical disc, and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers are formed adjacent another one of the innermost circumference and the outermost circumference of the optical disc.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A recording method for an optical disc having at least three recording layers, the method including

a step of recording and reproducing test data for determining the optimal recording power when user data are recorded in each recording layer, and determining the optimal recording power by evaluating the reproduction results, wherein

when test recording areas are formed by recording the test data, the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers and the test recording areas in which the test data are recorded in the even-numbered recording layers do not overlap in the thickness direction of the optical disc, the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction, and the

test recording layers in the even-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction,

wherein the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers are both formed adjacent an outermost circumference of the optical disc.

5. (Original) The recording method for an optical disc of claim 1, wherein the test recording areas are formed in positions facing a reproduce-only area of the optical disc.

6. (Previously Presented) An optical disc having at least three recording layers, in each of which a test recording area is formed by recording test data for determining the optimal recording power when user data are recorded, wherein

the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers do not overlap in the thickness direction of the optical disc, the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction, and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction,

wherein the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers are formed adjacent one of the innermost circumference and the outermost circumference of the optical disc, and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers are formed adjacent another one of the innermost circumference and the outermost circumference of the optical disc.

7- 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) An optical disc having at least three recording layers, in each of which a test recording area is formed by recording test data for determining the optimal recording power when user data are recorded, wherein

the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers and the test recording areas in which the test data are recorded in the even-numbered recording

layers do not overlap in the thickness direction of the optical disc, the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness direction, and the test recording layers areas in the even-numbered recording layers are mutually aligned in the thickness, wherein the test recording areas in the odd-numbered recording layers and the test recording areas in the even-numbered recording layers are both formed adjacent an outermost circumference of the optical disc.

10. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 6, wherein the test recording areas are formed in positions facing a reproduce-only area of the optical disc.

11. - 13. (Canceled)

14.- 22. (Canceled)